

WASHINGTON – Today Rep. Harry Mitchell and President Barack Obama announced that Arizona will receive more than \$112 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to weatherize and make homes more energy efficient for low-income families.

Arizona will receive \$57,023,278 for weatherization and \$55,447,000 for the State Energy Program. The grants – which include modernizing air conditioning equipment and adding insulation – were approved as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Congressman Mitchell voted for last month.

“In Arizona, the summer heat is just as dangerous as a winter storm back East,” Mitchell said. “Not only will this funding help keep homes cool and safe during tough times, it will offer an immediate shot in the arm to our state economy by employing people to weatherize homes. These investments will also help families cut their energy bills over the long run while helping Arizona and the nation move towards energy independence.”

Nationwide, the \$8 billion in weatherization and energy assistance will put 87,000 Americans back to work while saving working families hundreds of dollars on their energy bills, according to the White House.

With help from the Weatherization Assistance Program to make their homes more energy efficient, low-income families can reduce their heating and cooling bills by an average of 32 percent. According to the Department of Energy, the program allows an average \$6,500 in upgrades per home, and is available to families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level – or about \$44,000 a year for a family of four. More information about this program can be found [here](#).

The State Energy Program funds are available for rebates to consumers for home energy audits or other energy-saving improvements; development of renewable energy projects for clean electricity generation and alternative fuels; promotion of Energy Star products; efficiency upgrades for state and local government buildings; and other innovative state efforts to help save families money on their energy bills. To learn more about the State Energy Program, click [here](#).

Locally, the Weatherization Program and the State Energy Program are administered by the Arizona Department of Commerce's Energy Office. For more information, call 602-771-1100.